

54

S E C R E T

20 March 1973

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Developments in Ethiopia

1. There are two potential threats to stability in Ethiopia. Neither is critical.

2. Succession: [redacted] the Crown Prince's stroke has thrown the succession to the Emperor into uncertainty. The precise course of events will depend on the future health of these two men. If, after the Emperor's death, a prolonged struggle among rival claimants ensued and public order was threatened, the military would be likely to step in to stabilize the situation.

25X1

3. Relations with Somalia: Despite the Emperor's fears, Somalia's capabilities for sustained offensive action against Ethiopia are low. President Siad knows this. Siad might be ousted by more aggressive military figures now in his shaky coalition, but Ethiopia can handle any attack launched by such men, unless the USSR changes its policy and provides more and better offensive weapons to the Somalis.

4. The Worst Case: Ethiopian stability would meet its most severe test if the Emperor's death produced a succession crisis in which Somalia intervened, not by invasion, but by supporting insurgency among ethnic Somalis in the Ogaden and possibly among Eritreans as well. This case would present the Ethiopians with serious difficulties.

25X1

Note: Comments and queries regarding this memorandum are welcome. They may be directed [redacted] Office of Current Intelligence [redacted]

25X1

S E C R E T

5. Relations with the US: The Emperor probably will request an increase in military aid; he is not yet aware that MAP aid for FY1973 will be down \$3 million.

--	--	--

6. Higher aid levels are not necessary in security terms and would tend to stimulate a further Somali buildup. In political terms, the Emperor will tend to judge the degree of US support by the aid program. If disappointed, he could turn to France as an additional source of support.

*Save*

STAT

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE	20 Mar 73
TO:	[Redacted]		MEA
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
REMARKS:			
<p>(Distribution:</p> <p>Orig. &amp; 1 - DCI</p> <p>1 - DDI</p> <p>1 - DOCI</p> <p>1 - DD/OCI <i>chun</i></p> <p>1 - C/PS)</p>			
FROM:	[Redacted]		DD/OCI
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION	

*Just memo*

STAT

FORM NO. 241  
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-B  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)